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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/076,605	02/19/2002	Jun Fujimoto	401578	2306

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EXAMINER

SHAPIRO, JEFFERY A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3653

DATE MAILED: 04/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/076,605

Applicant(s)

FUJIMOTO, JUN

Examiner

Jeffrey A. Shapiro

Art Unit

3653

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/19/02.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4 & 6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Both Claims recite that the portable safe is both a currency holding section and a portable safe. However, said game related device has a currency holding section. It is unclear if these two currency holding devices recited are one and the same or if they are two separate elements.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

4. Claims 1-5, 7, 8 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Heidel et al (US 6,289,261).

Heidel discloses the following.

As described in Claims 1 and 16;

- a. a game-related device (14) having a currency holding section (16) for holding currency;

b. a portable safe (18) removably attachable to said game-related device, and functioning as said currency holding section when attached to said game-related device; and

c. a currency control device (16) to which said portable safe is removably attachable, said currency control device providing for at least one of

(i) holding currency in said portable safe and

(ii) retrieving currency held in said portable safe from said portable safe;

As described in Claim 2;

d. said currency holding section (16) provides for at least one of

(i) holding currency inserted from outside the device and

(ii) holding currency to be discharged outside the device;

As described in Claim 3;

e. a system control computer (see col. 3, lines 46-51) providing unitary control of quantities of currency in said game-related device, said portable safe, and said currency control device;

As described in Claims 4 and 17;

f. an anomaly detection device for detecting an anomaly occurring in said portable safe (note, for example, the detection of jams in said cassette, verification of cassette memory, errors, double feeds, non-removed bills, and overpayment—see fig., 11, elements (98, 104, and

110), fig. 12, elements (120 and 124), fig 13a, elements (138 and 158), fig. 14-2, element (196), fig. 15, elements 206, 208 and 220) and fig. 16, elements 234, 240, 250, 252, 256, 258 and 260);

As described in Claims 5 and 18;

g. said anomaly detection device detects an anomaly when said portable safe is not attached to one of said game-related device and said currency control device (see figure 10, which illustrates a possible docking device outside of the game device);

As described in Claims 7 and 19;

h. an anomaly notifying section for issuing an anomaly notification when said anomaly detection device detects an anomaly (see figs 11-16, cited above, which illustrate notification means such as audible sounds, display indications, etc.);

As described in Claims 8 and 20;

i. said anomaly detection device detects a destructive anomaly for said portable safe (note that memory verification can be construed to indicate a destructive anomaly—note also that this is equivalent to a “tilt” indication found in most vending machines and pin-ball machines—see col. 9, lines 45-47);

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 6, 9-16, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heidel et al (US 6,289,261) in view of Tillim et al (US 6,065,408), further in view of Kaish et al (US 5,997,928) and further in view of Martin et al (US 6,520,308 B1). Heidel discloses the apparatus described above. Heidel further discloses the following.

*As described in Claim 12;

- j. attaching said portable safe to and removing said portable safe from said game-related device or said currency control device requires an identifier of an authorized operator to be inserted into said game-related device or said currency control device (see col. 10, lines 17-19);

*As described in Claim 16;

- k. said housing includes
 - aa. a currency insertion window section (26),
 - ab. a currency discharging window section (36),

Heidel does not expressly disclose, but Tillim discloses the following.

As described in Claim 6;

- l. said anomaly detection device is located on said portable safe
(note that controller (54 and all other sensors, etc. are located onboard the
"portable safe (10));

As described in Claims 9 and 21;

- m. said anomaly detection device detects an anomaly when said
portable safe is neither attached to said game-related device nor to said
currency control device for too long a time (see col. 4, lines 57-67 and col.
5, lines 1-7);

As described in Claim 12;

- n. attaching said portable safe to and removing said portable safe
from said game-related device or said currency control device requires an
operator's card of an authorized operator to be inserted into said game-
related device or said currency control device (see col. 10, lines 17-19);

As described in Claim 12;

- o. an operator's card (70) holds the password or identifier of an
authorized operator to be inserted into said game-related device or said
currency control device (see col. 4, lines 44-46);

As described in Claim 13;

- p. said operator's card has an operator's code recorded thereon (see
col. 4, lines 44-46);

- q. said system control computer (54) has the operator's code registered in advance and corresponding to the operator, and
- r. agreement of the operator's code recorded on said operator's card with the operator's code registered in said system control computer is at least one condition for determining authority of an authorized operator (see col. 4, lines 40-49);

As described in Claims 10 and 22;

- s. said anomaly detection device includes a positional anomaly detection device (66) detecting an anomaly based on position of said portable safe;

Heidel does not expressly disclose, but Kaish discloses the following.

As described in Claim 14;

- t. the operator's code recorded on said operator's card includes an operator's peculiar code peculiar to the operator and a random number generated and affixed to the peculiar code when a specified event occurs;

As described in Claim 15;

- u. said portable safe exchanges information in wireless communication with said game-related device to which said portable safe is attached or with said currency control device to which said portable safe

is attached (see col. 3, lines 58-67, which describes using wireless to transmit information with a central controller (see lines col. 3, lines 40-50);

As described in Claim 16;

v. an antenna located on said housing for exchanging information in wireless communication with said game-related device and said currency control device (see col. 3, lines 58-67),

As described in Claim 11;

w. said positional anomaly detection device is located at a position separate from said portable safe (see col. 3, lines 65-67).

Heidel does not expressly disclose, but Martin discloses the following.

As described in Claim 16;

x. said housing includes

- ac. a first shutter plate (17)(see figure 41)closing said currency insertion window section,
- ad. a second shutter plate closing said currency discharging window section (note that it would have been obvious to provide a gate for each opening for security purposes),
- ae. a lock mechanism for locking said first and second shutter plates (note that the lock can be construed as a solenoid or motor

(19), which prevents the mechanism that moves the gate from moving—note also that it can be argued that it would be obvious to lock the gate as the gate is for sealing off the opening for security purposes), and

af. an unlocking mechanism for unlocking said lock mechanism upon detecting attachment of said portable safe to said game-related device or said currency control device (see col. 9, lines 46-49, which states that the gate may be “controlled to open or close for a number of purposes”);

Heidel, Tillim, Kaish and Martin are all considered to be analogous art because they all concern currency handling.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have placed the anomaly detection device and include a position detection device on the portable safe of Heidel, as is done with Tillim’s apparatus.

The suggestion/motivation would have been to prevent theft of the valuables inside the safe. See col. 1, lines 14-18 of Tillim.

It would also have been obvious to provide wireless communication of the portable safe of Heidel as is done in Kaish.

The suggestion/motivation would have been to provide remote communications of security status of the safe and the items in the safe. See col. 3, lines 40-67 of Kaish.

Additionally, it would have been obvious to provide gate means to secure the token receiving and dispensing openings in the portable safe, as is done in the apparatus of Martin.

The suggestion/motivation would have been to secure the gate in response to various circumstances. See Martin, col. 9, lines 45-49.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Heidel, Tillim, Kaish and Martin to obtain the invention as described in Claims 6, 9, 11-16, 21 and 22.

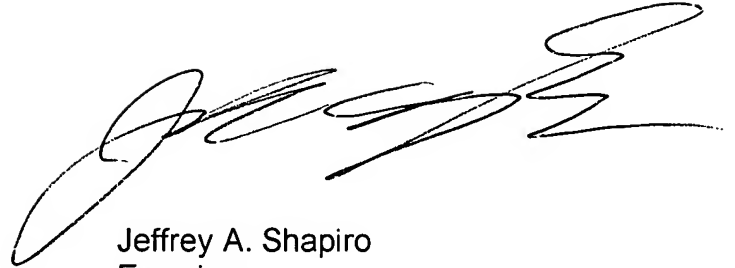
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey A. Shapiro whose telephone number is (703)308-3423. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald P. Walsh can be reached on (703)306-4173. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 10/076,605
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey A. Shapiro', written in a cursive style.

Jeffrey A. Shapiro
Examiner
Art Unit 3653

4/19/04

DONALD P. WALSH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600